THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 13th May 1954.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

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STATE LEGISLATURE, MADRAS

I.—SWEARING-IN OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following Members were sworn-in :—

(1) Sri G. Krishnamurthi.
(2) Sri S. Narsapaya.
(3) Sri E. H. Parameswaran.
(4) Sri T. Purushotham.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Clerks, Superintendents and Assistant Secretaries from the Vannar community working in the Secretariat.

* 46 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of lower division and upper division clerks, Superintendents and Assistant Secretaries from the Vannar community working now in the Secretariat?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) :—" There is one person in the category of Upper division clerks who belongs to the Vannar Community. He is employed in the Agriculture Department."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" May I know, Sir, the qualification and the extent of service of that person? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not have information about that, Sir."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" Sir, in view of the fact that it is a rare case to see such a qualified person from the downtrodden community, may I know whether any special encouragement will be given to him? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not think that in the matter of promotions any special consideration can be shown except the consideration of merit."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, may I ask the Hon. Minister to indicate what steps the Government have taken or propose to take to pull up all backward communities in the matter of adequate representation in the public services? "

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Constitution of India provides for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens."

SRI MOHAMED RAZAKHAN :—" Sir, we hear these days so much about backward communities among the Hindus. May I know what are the forward communities among the Hindus? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I think, Sir, certain Muslim communities are included in the backward classes, and there are several Hindu communities in the forward classes."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister has not followed my question. I did not put a question about Muslims, because they are left to themselves. We hear so much these days about backward sections among the Hindus. I ask, who are the forward communities among the Hindus? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There are lots of castes, communities, and sub-communities who come under the so-called forward communities."

Attendance of office on all public holidays by the members of the clerical staff of Madras General Hospital and Stanley Hospital.

* 47 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the members of the clerical staff of the Madras General Hospital and the Stanley Hospital are required to attend office on all public holidays; and

(*b*) if so, whether they are paid any allowance for such extra duty?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Members of the clerical staff in hospitals are required to attend their offices by turns on all public holidays and they are allowed compensation holidays therefor.

" (*b*) No, Sir."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, what are the prescribed hours of attendance for clerical establishment in the City hospitals? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The usual hours, Sir."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Are the provisions of the Shop Assistants Act applicable to the City hospitals, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" They are not applicable to the hospitals, Sir. There is no holidays for sickness."